

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01

NIC-01 INT-05 AGR-05 /095 W
----- 063603

R 211615Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 4779

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD UR CU COMECON

SUBJECT: CUBAN-SOVIET TRADE UP AGAIN IN 1974

1. SOVIET PRESS HAS REPORTED HEAVY CUBAN ATTENDANCE AT RECENT MEETING (NOV 12-15) OF CEMA PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN TRADE. FOLLOWING MEETING, CUBAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MARSELO FERNANDEZ FONT AND DEPUTY MINISTER AMADO BLANCO MET WITH SIVJET MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV AND DEPUTY MINISTER KUZMIN. BRIEF PRESS REPORT NOTED APPROVAL OF "SIGNIFICANT GROWTH" IN SOVIET-CUBAN TRADE THIS YEAR AND DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION REPORTED IN TASS VESTNIK STATES THAT 1974 SOVIET-CUBAN TRADE WILL BE UP 18 PERCENT OVER 1973 LEVEL WHICH WAS 1.1 BILLION RUBLES (DOLS 1.45 BILLION). THIS WOULD MEAN TOTAL 1974 TRADE TURNOVER OF ABOUT 1.3 BILLION
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RUBLES (DOLS 1.7 BILLION). AN EVEN LARGER INCREASE TOOK

PLACE DURING PERIOD 1972/1973 WHEN FIGURE ROSE FROM 822
MILLION RUBLES TO 1.1 BILLION.

3. SINCE SOVIET-CUBAN TRADE IS INTRA-CEMA AND SHOULD NOT BE
SUBJECT TO WESTERN INFLATION OR FLUCTUATIONS IN WORLD MARKET
PRICES, EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT TWO MAIN REASONS FOR UPWARD
MOVEMENT MAY BE PURELY DUE TO PHYSICAL INCREASES IN TRADE-
INCREASED SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT TO CUBA AND
SOME INCCREASES IN CUBAN SHIPMENTS OF NICKEL ORE AND SUGAR TO
USSR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, TRADE, TRADE DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW17619
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740338-0337
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741124/aaaaaubj.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN-SOVIET TRADE UP AGAIN IN 1974
TAGS: ETRD, UR, CU, COMECON
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005